

# Dog Bite Prevention Tips



## If you encounter a strange dog:

- ☐ Do not scream. This may excite the dog even more.
- ☐ Do not throw things at the dog. This may make him mad and more likely to try and bite you.
- ☐ Do not run. The dog may chase you.
- ☐ Do not turn your back on the dog.
- ☐ Remain motionless. Keep your hands and arms at your side with your hands tucked into fists.
- ☐ Avoid making eye contact with the dog.
- ☐ Once the dog loses interest, slowly back away until the dog is out of sight.
- ☐ If the dog attacks, "feed" it a jacket, purse, backpack or any other object to create a barrier ☐ between you and the dog. This may buy you enough time to escape.
- ☐ If the dog knocks you down, curl into a ball, protect your ears and the back of your neck with your ☐ arms and remain motionless.
- ☐ If you are bitten, immediately wash the wound with soap and water and contact your physician. ☐
- ☐ Report the bite to your local animal control agency and the police.

## More safety tips...

- ☐ Never approach a dog that is tied up in a yard.
- ☐ Never reach through a fence to pet a dog.
- ☐ Never try to pet a dog that is in a car.
- ☐ Never bother a dog that is eating, sleeping or caring for puppies.
- ☐ Never pull a dog's ears or tail.
- ☐ Never try to pet a dog that is sick, hurt or frightened (i.e. by fireworks, thunder, etc.)
- ☐ Be careful when playing with dogs. They may get overly excited and try to bite you.

## When you pet a dog:

- ☐ Always let the dog see you first.
- ☐ Let the dog come to you on his own terms.
- ☐ Make a fist and hold your hand out towards the dog's nose so he can sniff your hand.
- ☐ Talk to the dog in a normal voice. Do not yell or scream.
- ☐ If the dog seems comfortable with you, gently pet the dog in the back (not on the head - that's ☐ too close to the mouth, which contains those sharp teeth!)

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